



Energy and Technology Committee

March 5, 2020

The Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) is Connecticut's statewide association of towns and cities and the voice of local government - your partners in governing Connecticut. Our members represent 100% of Connecticut's population. We appreciate the opportunity to testify on bills of interest to towns and cities.

S.B. 10 "An Act Concerning Certain Recommendations Regarding Climate Change."

CCM requests S.B. 10 be amended to include language to remove the Virtual Net Metering (VNM) Cap.

CCM appreciates Governor Lamont's commitment to improving air quality and public health in Connecticut. Additionally, we applaud the Governor for his commitment to requiring a statewide zero carbon electric sector. To support these goals, CCM would suggest that providing municipalities with more opportunities to benefit from renewable energy resources will help support the state in meeting these goals. At the core of our request is to **include language in S.B. 10 to remove the Virtual Net Metering Cap.**

CCM **supports** the removal of the cap on municipal Virtual Net Metering (VNM), as this would allow for additional municipal projects to be realized. This proposal is a much needed measure towards creating cleaner and more affordable energy projects in our towns and cities.

Many municipalities have acted in good faith and invested time and resources to develop VNM projects. These projects would help reduce our electric bills, ease pressure on increasingly tight local budgets and improve the environment. Despite going through this process, because of the cap, projects cannot move forward, leaving these projects essentially "stranded".

CCM continues to meet with legislators, industry representatives, and state officials in order to craft a solution to address these "stranded" VNM projects. Removing the VNM cap is another tool that municipalities can use to support the state's zero carbon goals. S.B. 10 provides a legislative vehicle to address the problems of these "stranded" towns. CCM looks forward to working with the Governor and the committee to craft language to remove the VNM cap, providing additional opportunities for towns and cities to move ahead with VNM projects.

CCM would request the Committee **amend S.B. 10 to include language to remove the VNM Cap.**

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If you have any questions, please contact Donna Hamzy, Advocacy Manager of CCM at dhamzy@ccm-ct.org or (203) 843-0705.